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SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: KAZAKHSTAN: UPDATE OF CHILD LABOR INFORMATION

REF: (A) STATE 143552 (B) 04 ALMATY 3206

1. Summary: In accordance with Ref A, this telegram provides updated data on Kazakhstan's compliance with international norms on the prevention of the worst forms of child labor. This cable updates Ref B. This information is provided to assist in the determination of Kazakhstan's continued eligibility for benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). Post concludes that the GOK is meeting its obligations under the relevant ILO Conventions to prevent and punish illegal child labor practices. There is currently no justification for altering Kazakhstan's eligibility for GSP on the basis of child labor issues. End Summary.

2. In addition to the information provided in Ref B, Post wishes to convey this update:

-- In accordance with ILO Convention 182 and national law, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection has promulgated a list of specific industries which, by their character, are unsafe for children and in which the employment of anyone under the age of 18 is prohibited under all circumstances. The list includes 33 separate industries and 78 specific jobs.

3. Comment: Post is satisfied that the Government of Kazakhstan takes the issue of child labor seriously. Where the problem remains, it is usually present in communities of migrant laborers who travel to the south of Kazakhstan to work on cotton and tobacco farms. Certainly in comparison with its neighbors and GSP recipients generally, Kazakhstan is doing a credible job in addressing this issue. Post recommends very strongly against any change in Kazakhstan's GSP eligibility on the basis of child labor issues.

ASQUINO

NOTE: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEE(S)  
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